



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2009

The Honorable David R. Obey, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education and Related  
Agencies  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt, Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education and Related  
Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

We urge you to include a significant increase in funding for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> Century CLCs) in the fiscal year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Today, families are relying more than ever on afterschool supports as they work to keep their jobs, take on more hours, or provide their children with basic necessities. Parents with afterschool supports are more productive at work and miss fewer days, and their children do better in school and are more likely to graduate.

A growing number of families, however, can no longer afford afterschool programs, or the cost to transport their children to them. Just when families need their support most, programs are being forced to reduce services, increase fees or even shut their doors. In addition, many of these programs serving low-income children provide not only academic enrichment, but meals. It is imperative to ensure that these programs are able to respond to growing demands.

Seven years ago, the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act included a bipartisan commitment to quality afterschool programs, but today, there are not nearly enough afterschool programs to meet the need. The demand for affordable, quality afterschool experiences far exceeds the availability. In communities around our country, more than 14 million children take care of themselves after the school day ends, including almost four million students in grades six to eight.

We need to do better for children and parents. Afterschool programs help keep kids safe, improve academic performance and help working families across America. Numerous studies have shown that quality programs give students the academic, social and professional skills they need to succeed. Students who regularly attend have better grades and behavior in school, better peer relations and emotional adjustment and lower incidences of drug-use, violence and unintended pregnancy.

Support for federal funding for afterschool is broad, deep, enduring and bipartisan. Even in this challenging economy, Americans recognize the need to increase support to these critical programs. We appreciate the challenging situation you face with the fiscal year 2010 appropriations bills, and thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

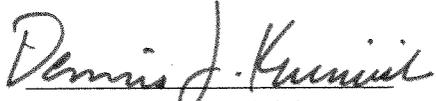
Sincerely,

Dale E. Kildee

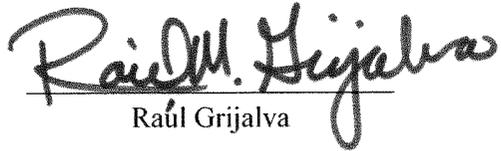
Michael N. Castle

  
Bobby Scott

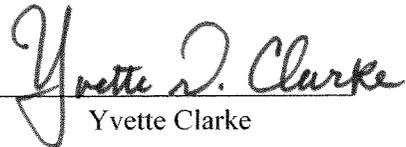
  
Vernon J. Ehlers

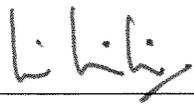
  
Dennis Kucinich

  
David Wu

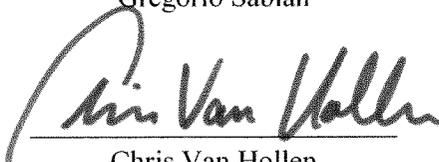
  
Raúl Grijalva

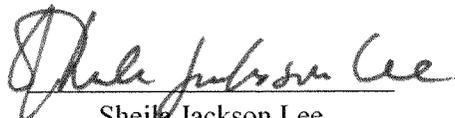
  
David Loeb sack

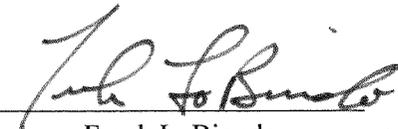
  
Yvette Clarke

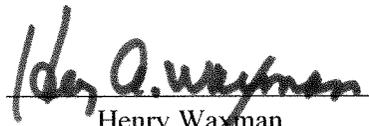
  
Gregorio Sablan

  
Dina Titus

  
Chris Van Hollen

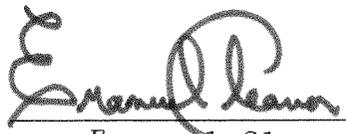
  
Sheila Jackson Lee

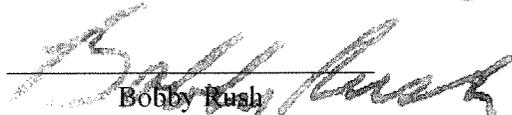
  
Frank LoBiondo

  
Henry Waxman

  
Paul Hodes

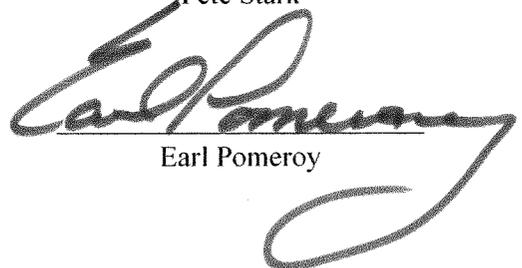
  
Shelley Berkley

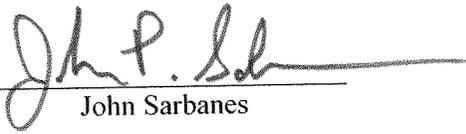
  
Emanuel Cleaver

  
Bobby Rush

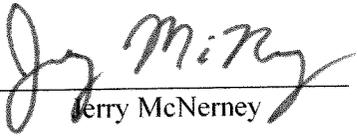
  
Pete Stark

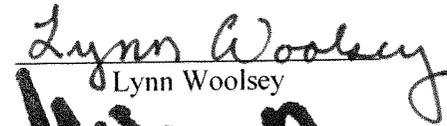
  
Nick Rahall

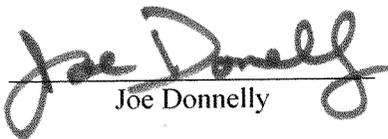
  
Earl Pomeroy

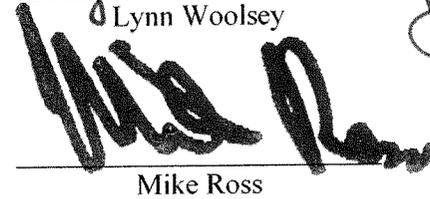
  
John Sarbanes

  
Brad Miller

  
Jerry McNerney

  
Lynn Woolsey

  
Joe Donnelly

  
Mike Ross

  
Donald M. Payne

  
Bob Filner

  
Chellie Pingree

  
Phil Hare

\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_